THE CASTLE

PART TWO

BY VARIOUS MEMBERS (and associate members) OF THE TRAFALGAR GANG

DAY TWO OF OUR HOLIDAY IN SCOTLAND

Duncan wakes up early and talks to Margaret unloading a continental breakfast from the dumb waiter opposite the lounge .

MACREA Get ready with traditional Scottish breakfast, with plenty of salt for growing boys.

MARLAINER I've had an email from Oliver Moss saying he might bring his Stallion over to compete in the Grand National .

FIONA PLUMPTON And my editor says you've got a double page advertisement for **MYSTIC FOLLICLE REGAIN SOLUTION** .

MACREA EXCELLENT, SPITFIRE could win the grand national for us .

He then crosses to the main stairwell stopping to give his coat of arms on the breastplate of the suit of armour a light kiss.

DUNCAN MACREA I'll go and wake the Trafalgar gang Darling,

MARLAINER DETRICK Do you mind if I take my morning swim first darling.

DUNCAN MACREA “ Thank you lord, I’ll make the Macrea name proud again “ says he to his ancestors.

McCrea walks around the Oak bannister's past the library and down the corridor of the Oak panelled east Wing and knocks on the door STRINGFELLOW .

MACREA Git your shit together soldier .

STRINGFELLOW leaps out of bed startled and says “Morning Mr President I was only watching CHANNEL 5 Sir honestly “.

DUNCAN MACREA I’ll see you downstairs.

STRINGFELLOW SHAW " Probably Duncan” he say going over to his hand basin “ though I slipped Lora some of your experimental drugs last night to get her to put out.

DUNCAN MACREA Really Did it work , I’ve got a young lady from Science today magazine I could try them on.

He leaves the guest quarters and heads back down across entrance and enters the dining hall on left.Margaret is putting out salt grinders along an oblong dining table , and MACREA is followed in by theTRAFALGAR GANG who walk past a grandfather cock next to a welsh dresser displaying views of the highlands to a fold up table in the corner of the oak panelled room where they help themselves to porridge from a large pot.

DAVID GARDNER When can I get measured for my suit of armour then Duncan.

GRAHAM Like those torture instruments and stocks downstairs .

MACREA I picked some suits of armour up in a job lot from the back lot of PINEWOOD STUDIOS.

Margaret You'll have to see if there’s a suit of armour that fits you, I'll show you after you finish your porridge .

STRINGFELLOW pulls JAMES GRAINGER by the arm .

STRINGFELLOW SHAW How dare you suggest that my girlfriend is a girl of easy virtue in front of everyone.

JAMES GRAINGER Don't you belch before my wife then

STRINGFELLOW SHAW Didn't know it was her turn

MARLAINER Please boys you're a guest in this castle

DUNCAN Ladies please I don't want to call the riot squad in, and Margret " he says pointing his spoon at his breakfast "this porridge is a bit too hot

JAMES GRAINGER Point taken Ann, you are my rock to cling to.

DUNCAN Any my favourite Niece.

JAMES GRAINGER I'm not fighting David he's twice the size of me and neat blood brings me out in a rash.

STRINGFELLOW laughs [I'll be your second James and bring your sword to the field of honour as I always said I would mate]

JAMES GRAINGER Just as we discussed over at the canal with MUTTLEY then , it would set my mind at rest .

DUNCAN MACREA Now you have settled in it's time for you to see the LOCH so follow me up to the West tower.

They all cross the entrance hall and step back to the first floor , then right through velvet drapes revealing a large spiral staircase of plain sandstone. At the top sandstone archway is the roof garden .

DAVID GARDNER He lifted his sporran and what did he find, everyone

JAMES GRAINGER WHAT DID HE FIND DAVID

DAVID An English Hungarian dictionary and a pack of Lambert and butler.

LORNA DENHAM Nothing to make my eyes water then.

From this roof garden the gang can see the LOCH LOMOND .

DUNCAN What about that view.

STRINGFELLOW It's the best I've seen since Miss Tactical leaned over my desk in English class last week Duncan.

DUNCAN takes STRINGFELLOW aside .

MACREA I'll show you my laboratory in the WEST WING that you and your noble squire managed to stumble into last night.

STRINGFELLOW SHAW Hear that guy's we are going down to the secret lab to get the lowdown on PANORAMA CHEMICALS secret experiment.

LORNA That's terrific lover boy, but first there's a little matter of my honour to be fought for, remember.

EXTRACT FROM THE DIARY OF STRINGFELLOW SHAW

When they have come in from the courtyard , JAMES IS so knackered he is being carried into the entrance hall and David is following behind supported by a grinning Lora.

Tim I new she wasn't the town bike.

JAMES Don't make me laugh , i'ii be in traction for a month.

DAVID MANNING I can tell you've recovered from that bruising I gave you earlier in the courtyard.

JAMES GRAINGER Of all those suits of armour I had to pick the one made for jousting. The rust bucket had blinkers on.

DAVID MANNING Oh right then you say I got lucky when I hit you with that mace then.

JAMES GRAINGER I COULD ONLY SEE IN FRONT OF ME.

Stanley ratchet and JERAMY help JAMES off with his suit of armour and we cross the black and white chequered entrance hall while Both noble knights apply first aid to these battle scars.

STRINGFELLOW Now if we are all ready to go I'll get BASIL to unlock the main door." he says pointing to the ancient double oak arch with cross beam.

ANN goes over to the nearest intercom switch and presses the button

, calling the wrinkled retainer to open up for them. [Basil can you come open the doors please]

The Wrinkled retainer arrives and pulls the cross beam from there housing before unlocking .

“ ENJOY YOURSELVES then guys, have a pleasant evening.

Thanks Basil

He watches them walk over the drawbridge and calls After them “ the view from the far side of the LOCH is very pretty. Enjoy yourselves

JERAMY Don’t wait up BASIL we could be out late.

BASIL I have to set security around the Castle, so I’ll be up when you get back.

The party walks along the side of the moat and then over to the path at the side of the murky water.

GRAHAM Let's get going then guy’s it’s going to be a very long walk around this giant pond.

LORA Clock is ticking so lets get at it.

We carry on along the mossy path breaking every ten minutes to admire the river inlets and tributaries of LOCH NESS.

David pulled out his phone from his he-man satchel and started texting the finalist of Miss PANORAMA CHEMICALS 2013.

DAVID THIS girl has those MASCARA SMUDGES and is real nice in a girl next door type of way, she texts back every time I ping her.

James you could buy pink toilet paper from MORRISONS,AND WALK HER HOME TO YOUR MAMA'S house and feel proud of it mate.

STRINGFELLOW THAT’S RIGHT BOY’S, you could carry her shopping home, without any fear of skin cancer developing but, and it is a big butt, she is used to LA not the delights of NEWTOWN on a Friday night.

LORA DENHAM pulls the mobile phone towards her and takes a

look at the model “I’M SURE YOU COULD WALK AND ANDREX PUPPY AROUND Ipswich ALL DAY LONG WITH MS Panorama chemicals 2010, and bring that pooch back to mamma with pride David. .

We have walked around to 0300 of our anticlockwise circuit of the LOCH, AND BY NOW IT IS 1800. The moss is heavy on the ground when I say BREAK LETS PITCH CAMP HERE.

So we set up a camp of a couple of stools and broke out our rations. David and

Tim takes out a thermos and hands plastic cups of coco, to stop MARGERET THE COOK says “ don't venture out in the highlands without a hot drink.

David If I can pull you away from MS panorama chemicals mate, here is a bar of KENDAL MINT CAKE that MARGERET says is essential for highland walking.

WHEN WE GET BACK we see two cars parked in the courtyard and the main door is open, so we cross the black and white lobby and walk into the lounge to find our hosts talking to an attractive woman.

JAMES GRANGER Our Stanley fell in a river and is drying out upstairs DUNCAN.

DUNCAN MACREA THERE’S no hope for some people there, but I’ll phone MARGARET to take him a hot lemon drink.

MARLAINER DETRICH Just sit down guy’s , this is our guest MS Plumpton, and we are delighted with her magazine, she says , passing over a copy of science weekly.

Trafalgar gang sit down next to Marlainer and Duncan “ Tomorrow shall be your final day here guys and your train leaves at 1500. You will arrive back in NEWTOWN late tomorrow night.

FIONA PLUMPTON You going to let me see you research specimens then Mr Macrea.

ANN ok CHAPs, uncle is waiting by the secret lab. Alright then

MICHAEL SULLIVAN Let's get to the SANCTUARY.

They go back to the Dungeon and get to the Green door , and Ann punches in a four digit key into the entry coder.

The doors open revealing metal lift, they crown in and press for the SANCTUM .

After three minutes it reaches the bottom of the tunnel and the lift doors open. They are bathed in a dark green light reflected from the viewing window high
above. The cavern is a large conical cement structure with plain matt white paint, separated by the large viewing SKYLIGHT.

LORA Wow, That's the bottom of LOCH NESS above us then.

From the centre of a large cavern between the four ROMAN COLUMNS that support the vaulted ceiling, Duncan turns from examining readouts .

DUNCAN MACREA Impressive is it not.

MARLAINER I never get tired of seeing the LOCH from this angle. BASIL helped AFTER I FOUND THE CAVERN. MACREA don't take pictures of the sanctum or everyone I want to come here.Basil helped me design the sanctum when I first came here I was rock climbing In a cave I found behind.The castle. BASIL Only with some fatherly advice Duncan

FIONA PLUMPTON Then I'll just take pictures of our 2 Subs at your two test subjects here.In REM sleep.

DUNCAN MACREA Oh, don’t be modest Basil , you went over the plans for the complex with me, it was a joint effort.

STANLEY Show us what you got down here then Mr President .

They gather next to four GURNEYS between four ROMAN SUPPORT COLUMNS with a CENTRAL AMERICAN COUPLE next to a MALE and FEMALE from SALFORD . Underneath a hard plastic viewing panel .

MACREA Delroy and Rachel here. I met on a holiday in Central America.And Jeanne and Eric here applied from one of my factories in Salford.

They can observe the censors connected to major chakra points going to a bundle of wires that feed into a reader. This produces a chart of data slowly collected in a tray at the head below them.

Duncan walks between the two resin tables and puts his hands in his pockets

STRINGFELLOW They are lucky and seem very relaxed lying there.

MICHAEL SULLIVAN They aren't husband and wife , or red hot lovers then Duncan.

DUNCAN MACREA Not like me and Marlainer are , which reminds me " he says walking over to the intercom next to the elevator doors and lifting the receiver " are you ready to go then Darling , how are you doing"

MARLAINER DETRICH is lying next to the poolside sipping a long drink After her normal morning swim and lifts the phone next to her lounger. [I'm ready to go when you are Darling]

STRINGFELLOW pears into the plastic cover and sees two young blond people sleeping peacefully below a tacky sign headboard linking the two raised daisies with the legend

Duncan leads his two women down into the dungeons and then taps a four digit entry code into a keypad next

DUNCAN MACREA So if you want to take a photo or two, I'll have MARGRET make you up a room in our guest quarters for the night.

FIONA PLUMPTON THANKS

MACREA Though I suspect my niece and her chums from NEWTOWN may keep you up late.

He crosses over to an INTERCOM UNIT next to the elevator doors and calls for his cook. " you ready DEAR, PHIONA shall stay with us tonight and were just coming up from the SANCTUM.

“ NO sign of nessy yet youngh master “

“not tonight MARGRET “

DUNCAN Basil, can you take over , I've a hot date in the old town tonight?t. Get Margaret to fix them some pizza, or whatever they want See you tomorrow then , grand morning isn't it ?

He takes the lift up through the rocky caverns 5 miles below under LOCH LOMOND to the main building.

FIONA PLUMPTON So how long have your two test subject’s been sleeping here. ?

Basil They are not asleep as you understand the term , these readouts measure REM and are connected to MRI’s in the head of these beds.

STRINGFELLOW So your machines keep them in Dream sleep and you can monitor their physical condition at the same time.

BASIL The MRI will tell us if the body is declining, and the monitors are there as an early warning system linked to the monitoring equipment.

STRINGFELLOW Right then let's go, Basil did they pick their style of entertainment before signing up for this DRUTHGO DE GUNGO CREAM experiment.

BASIL PHANSYPANTS is probably watching an episode of WONDER WOMAN AS WE SPEAK .

JAMES That's right guy’s I can see it know , LYNDSEY WIDELOAD has lassoed him and is asking “ does my bum look big in this” to some lucky Texan.

ANN “ come on guy’s fatso’s tum is rumbling.

FIONA PLUMPTON And I'm WONDER WOMAN anyway .

STRINGFELLOW SHAW OH MIGHTY THOR GOD OF THUNDER GIVE US THE STRENGTH, TO CARRY OUT THIS MISSION.

Margaret is in the kitchen making pizza dough, as DUNCAN

WALKS

MACREA Alright then Margaret, we is off to INVERNESS, FOR A NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN. Look after the Trafalgar gang while I'm away.

Margaret I'm sure between me and Basil they'll be just fine

Then Duncan and MARLAINER head for the main hall to gather the gang and present their new gadget.

As the gang step up the stone steps and into the entrance hall the couple ARE WAITING and ask that we assemble in the dining room

MARLAINER comes in carrying a box with the name CLICKNOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY Written on the side.

DUNCAN MACREA Presents for you all lads ,from THE FOUNDATION

These are the latest foundation mobile phones ,with all the usual enhancements. They each come with a 2G memory and 2 megapixel camera.

Ann FITZGERALD Wow that's fab, you told me there would be some nice surprises.

STRINGFELLOW Pulls DUNCAN away from the others.saying " you never told me about any of this at my induction , and I don't want the firm to have access to all my files"

MARLAINER " we aren't going to spy on any of you or listen in on your conversations, but we will know who you are contacting, that's not so bad is it.

STRINGFELLOW I guess not MARLAINER, but I wish we had been warned is all. He goes back to his people.

FIONA PLUMPTON enters the dining room past the grandfather clock to the oak paneled welch dresser .

FIONA PLUMPTON I've been Snapping away furiously just from my personal album.

THEY THEY REACH THE ENTRANCE HALL and can hear the TRAFALGAR GANG upstairs on the first floor lounge, busy texting

ms PANORAMA CHEMICALS

.

They take the stairs up to the first floor landing stopping to buy the suit of armour and the large plaque behind it of the MACREA coat of ARMS.

Plumpton I MUST GET A shot of this coat of arms for my magazine.

DUNCAN MACREA I've got a nice surprise for you lot before you leave tomorrow, but me and the missus are going to hit the hay.

The couple cross to their quarters on the right side of the building leaving the gang and young reporter alone.

PLUMPTON So tell me what it means to be regional commanders in this FOUNDATION I've heard about.

STRINGFELLOW Me and the gang have to recruit associate members and gain enough popularity to get on the cover of the foundation magazine KEEN AS MUSTARD .

PLUMPTON YOU are there main point of contact then. I still have to convince my editor to give priority and advertising space to

Duncan's hair tonic.

The next day Duncan gets to the kitchen early and meets his staff, Basil and Margaret before bounding up the central stairway to the guest quarters , turning the lights on and banging on the door.

MACREA Get your shit together and wake up your troops and I'll expect you all in half an hour.

STRINGFELLOW arouses his troops from their slumber and they descend to the entrance hall and then into the dinning room on the left side.

MACREA Joe Capp and his girlfriend shall be arriving in an hours time, and he shall be giving all of you your new assignments for when you get back home.

DAVID GARDNER TERRIFIC, at least we don't have to rely on this reprobate for orders from the FOUNDATION FROM NOW ON.

DUNCAN Joe shall be your main point of contact from now on, and will be able to answer most of your questions. So tuck in to your porridge ladies and gentlemen.

JAMES GRAINGER We don't brew the best porridge in the

highlands for nothing dear especially

Jeremy I MIGHT BE GOING BLIND AFTER ALL THOSE MODELS FROM Miss Panorama chemicals sent me photos.

PLUMPTON you were getting a bit excited when she texted back saying that she was single and looking for a young man weren't you JERAMY.

LORA This one recons he's on for a hot date with the runner up from last year.

MARLAINER That girl asleep downstairs could have been a contender if she had not volunteered for our sleep program.

DUNCAN And if it's a success then I could ask her and the male to be in on a space program that even know is being constructed by a team in BERKSHIRE.

PLUMPTON So when this project is completing its testing you can give me an exclusive then Mr President.

Duncan Of all the journalists you will be the first invited to a space launch when it happens.

Basil comes into the dining room.Basil comes into the oak panel dialing room and saying that Joe Cap.with charlene

MACREA Will bring him in. Let's not stand on ceremony here.He's still in charge of our UK Subsidiary.Of the Oliver Moss Foundation.

BASIL opens the door for JOE and CHARLEINE

JOE CAPP HAVE THEY BEEN BEHAVING THEMSELVES .

MARLAINER Apart from trying to bash lumps out of each other in suits of armour, not bad.

JOE I told you that going to a garage sale at PINEWOOD studios could become more trouble than it's worth.

DUNCAN Yes I must admit that you did, but it hides that green door in the east wing , leading to the SANCTUM with

those old film props. Have you got their orders for their return to NEWTOWN with you?

JOE Plenty for both THE TRAFALGAR GANG , and readers of KEEN AS MUSTARD magazine ..

JOE It's great to finally meet all your partners in crime, please introduce me. This is my new wife Charleine, from AUSTRALIA.

JAMES GRAINGER Great to meet you too.

STRINGFELLOW It was a chance meeting on a train carrage while on work experience that i met JOE and contacted the FOUNDATION .

JOE That's right, the clumsy oil spilt coffee over me as he pushed a trolly up the isle of the Bath IPSWICH EXPRESS.

Joe walks around the table passing a brochure to each of them with the legend THE TRAFALGAR GANG On the front.

JO CAPP This will give you an idea of your assignments for the next term.

Joe sits down next to Miss Plumpton saying. "Apart from delivering the magazine to a list of local members, and signing up new recruits, we also want you to go to the race track out of town and make a SCREENSAVER for our robotic mascot.

STRINGFELLOW Alright give me the details later and we shall get that done, and check up on your space DJ in FELIXSTOWE.

JOE that's the idea , Cos if the experiment downstairs is successful then we have a launch ready to take him to the rim of our solar system.

DUNCAN MACREA WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET THE DESIGNERS OF THE EXCELSIOR AT THE REYKJAVIK ICE DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS WHERE I'M A JUDGE .

Joe I have been in touch with Admiral Sandinger over near the TITAN pot hole and he says they will be at REYKJAVIK airport at about 2000h tonight if you can meet them.

Duncan Phone him back know then and tell him me and

Marlainer shall be there on there arrival and we shall go on to the hotel together.

Joe Alright then he can get them on a train to Heathrow and then the plain to ICELAND.

Joe and his wife get into the car and he says [Have a nice ride back guys, and keep in touch. Keep sending me those Dictaphone tapes and diary entries for the viewing and listening pleasure of all foundation members]

Charlene It's been nice meeting you all, and hope to see you again, goodbye, and luck with the article Miss Plumpton.

PLUMPTON Hope to see you again soon.

Joe and Charlene drive back out over the drawbridge and start along the meandering road around the Loch towards EDINBURGH.

Basil comes out and says " you minibus is booked for two hours time young masters"

PLUMPTON Tell you what , you send me a copy of the school magazine, and I can put you on the subscription for SCIENCE WEEKLY , HOW'S THAT.

The gang go and pack and are ready for the minibus when it arrives . They are all sorry to leave the castle but are a happy band indeed and pleased to have the experience.

DUNCAN Don't

forget to keep the SANCTUM a secret until the experiment is completed.

When we are packed, we assemble in the dining room and wait for the minibus, and are joined by MARGARET and Basil.

MARGARET So you have your assignments for the next few month's then lads.

BASIL We look forward to hearing of you in the next issue of the foundation magazine.

The gang get up and walk out into the entrance hall for the last time. The sun is flooding through the arched windows on the landing as

they leave and are driven out of the courtyard and over the drawbridge , starting the journey back to EDINBOROUGH .

When the minibus has left MACRAE CASTLE, the couple go back indoors to the entrance hall.

MarlAINER i'll miss those kids being around, we've grown quit attached to them.

MACREA that's what I'm about to discuss with my guru OLIVER MOSS on the desktop upstairs. He heads up to the first floor while saying "please be ready and packed darling as we leave for the airport in an hour's time."